

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 SAM-01 SAB-01

IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 OMB-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 SY-05 A-01

OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 SCA-01 /113 W

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O 221351Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7359

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

CAIRO 1379

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE,

SUBJECT: APRIL 22 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTING ON LEBANON

1. MEDIA CONCENTRATED ON IMPROVEMENT IN SECURITY SITUATION AND CONTACTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON POLITICAL TRACK. AL-BAATH HEAD-LINED: "CALM PREVAILED YESTERDAY OVER BEIRUT. MILITARY COMMITTEE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM OVER MEASURES TAKEN. LEBANESE CIRCLES STRESS NEED FOR ADHERENCE TO SYRIAN INITIATIVE." AL-THAWRAH BANNERED: IMPROVEMENT OF SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT. MEASURES CONTINUING FOR CONSOLIDATION OF CEASEFIRE. PRES. ASAD RECEIVED PRES. FRANGIE'S ENVOYS." ARTICLES REPORTED THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE

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HAD MET UNDER KARAME'S CHAIRMANSHIP TO DISCUSS MEASURES TO

IMPLEMENT CEASEFIRE. LEBANESE POLITICIANS CITED AS STRESSING NEED FOR ADHERENCE TO SYRIAN INITIATIVE BECAUSE "IT REPRESENTS IDEAL SOLUTION WHICH WILL GUARANTEE UNITY, SECURITY AND STABILITY OF LEBANON." SIGNIFICANTLY, AL-BAATH REPORTED STATEMENT BY RAYMOND EDDE EXPRESSING HIS CONVICTION THAT "SYRIAN AND LEBANESE INTERESTS ARE COMPLEMENTARY, AND IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT HEAD OF STATE WOULD NOT TAKE THIS POINT INTO CONSIDERATION."

2. PRESS REPORTED THAT PRES. ASAD RECEIVED PREVIOUS NIGHT ENVOYS DR. LUCIEN DAHDAH AND SALIM AL-KHOURY, "WHO ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS YESTERDAY CARRYING MESSAGE FROM PERS. FRANGIE AND WHO WERE CHARGED WITH HOLDING CONSULTATIONS IN RESPECT TO SYRIAN MEDIATION." MAJ. GEN. NAJI JAMIL AND COS HIKMAT SHIHABI ATTENDED MEETING.

3. TISHRIIN REPORTED THAT KUWAITI MINISTER OF STATE HUSSEIN DECLARED APRIL 21 THAT KUWAIT WOULD NOT SEND ITS FORCES TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN LEBANON.

4. AL-THAWRAH CITED AFP DISPATCH THAT ISRAELI GUNBOATS HAD SHELLED PALESTINIAN CAMP IN SIDON LAST NIGHT. AL-THAWRAH ASSERTED THAT "ZIONIST ENEMY ESCALATES PROVOCATIONS AND AGGRESSIVE ACTS IN LEBANON EVERY TIME SITUATION BECOMES CALM."

5. PRESS EDITORIAL COMMENT CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON AMERICAN-- ZIONIST PLOT AGAINST LEBANON. AL-BAATH CLAIMED, "ONE FACT IS THAT PLOT AGAINST LEBANON AND ARAB CAUSE HAS NOT YET ENDED; THIS IS WHAT MAKES LEBANESE SITUATION ALWAYS PRONE TO NEW SURPRISES." ASSERTING THAT "ALL AMERICAN, ZIONIST AND SADATI EFFORTS NOW DIRECTED TOWARDS PERPETUATING SINAI AGREEMENT," AL-BAATH STATED THAT PARTIES TO SINAI ACCORD INTEND TO KEEP POT BOILING IN LEBANON. AL-THAWRAH EDITORIALIZED THAT "ZIONIST-AMERICAN-IMPERIALIST PLOT, THROUGH CONTINUATION OF LEBANESE CRISIS, WANTS TO TRANSFORM IT INTO ETERNAL CRISIS" WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE ARAB SOLIDARITY, STRIKE AT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM SINAI ACCORD. TISHRIIN COMMENTED THAT, IN VIEW OF PLOT DIRECTED AGAINST ROLE OF SYRIA -- "THE BEATING HEART OF ARABISM" -- IN LEBANON, IT APPEARS THAT GOAL OF WASHINGTON-TEL AVIV SCHEME IS TO UNDERMINE ARAB SOLIDARITY.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME IN MONTHS THAT WE HAVE SEEN FAVORABLE MENTION OF STATEMENT BY RAYMOND EDDE IN SYRIAN PRESS.

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ORABLE MENTION OF STATEMENT BY RAYMOND EDDE IN SYRIAN PRESS.

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